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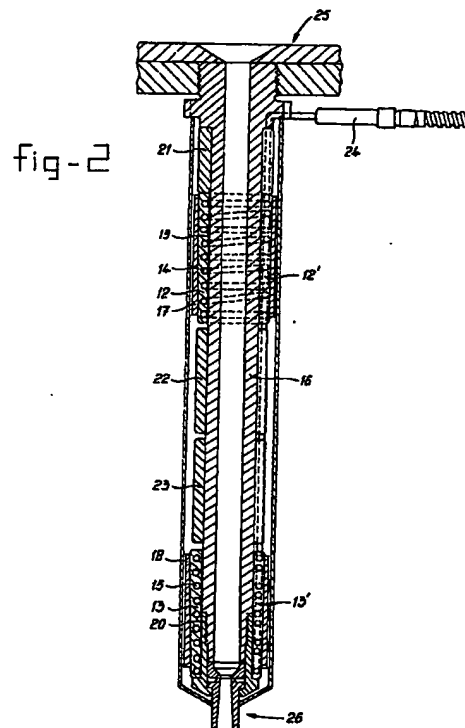
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54 **Process for the production of an injection nozzle for use in an injection moulding device.**

57 A process for the production of an injection nozzle comprising an essentially tubular inner part (16) and at least one essentially wire-type heating element (14, 15) which is embedded entirely inside a solid metal body (12, 13) lying in a close-fitting manner around the inner part in which one or more separate, essentially tubular metal bodies (12, 13) with a heating element (14, 15) embedded therein are formed by placing the heating element and said metal in a molten state in a mould, so that the heating element is completely enclosed by the molten metal, and subsequently allowing the metal to set, following which the body thus formed is removed from the mould and this tubular body or these tubular bodies thus obtained is or are then slid over the tubular inner part up to a certain point. Advantageously a fully open axially running slit (12', 13') is formed in the wall of the tubular body (12, 13), while the wire-type heating element (14, 15) extends in curved loops zigzag through the body and extending to the slit.



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The invention relates to a process for the production of an injection nozzle for use in a device for moulding an object of a thermoplastic material in an injection mould, which nozzle comprises an essentially tubular inner part forming a feed channel for the thermoplastic material, and at least one essentially wire-type heating element which is situated at a distance from the inner part and which is fitted extending over a certain length of the inner part and running several times essentially round the inner part, and which is embedded entirely inside a solid metal body lying in a close-fitting manner around the inner part, which body is obtained by placing the heating element and said metal in a molten state in a mould, so that the heating element is completely enclosed by the molten metal, and subsequently allowing the metal to set, following which the body thus formed is removed from the mould. Such a process is known from European Patent Application 0093231.

In the known process the injection nozzle is made in one piece, by placing a helically wound heating element in a mould, then fitting a solid metal bar in this heating element, and then pouring molten metal into the annular space around the bar inside the mould and allowing it to set, following which the nozzle thus formed is removed from the mould and a passage is finally drilled through the bar in order to form the feed channel.

A nozzle obtained in this known manner has the disadvantage that the temperature distribution over the nozzle obtained by means of the single heating element cannot be set in the optimum manner for certain thermoplastic materials with a critical temperature range.

The object of the invention is to provide a process by means of which improved injection nozzles of the abovementioned type which do not have the above-mentioned disadvantage can be produced.

This object is achieved in that in the process according to the invention one or more essentially tubular metal bodies with a heating element embedded therein are formed in the manner mentioned in the preamble, and this tubular body or these tubular bodies thus obtained is or are then slid over the tubular inner part up to a certain point.

By the process according to the invention one or more of the abovementioned tubular bodies or heating bodies can now be fitted round the tubular inner part at such a selected place or places that the temperature distribution over the nozzle is optimum for a specific thermoplastic material. Moreover, these heating bodies can be replaced in a simple manner.

For fixing the heating bodies at a particular point around the tubular inner part, at least a part of the inner peripheral face of a heating body and

the outer peripheral face of at least a part of the tubular inner part are made so that they run tapered to the same degree, following which the heating body is slid over the inner part in such a way that the taper of the first-mentioned peripheral face is directed identically to that of the other peripheral face, so that towards the end of the sliding movement these faces interact as wedges.

The inner peripheral face of the tubular body is preferably made cylindrical and a fully open axially running slit is formed in the wall of the body, while the wire-type heating element extends in curved loops running zigzag through the body.

If it fits in a sliding fit around the cylindrically shaped tubular inner part, such a body can then simply be slid up to a certain point over the tubular inner part. When a nozzle obtained in this way is in operation, in which case an electric current is passed through the heating element of the tubular body, in order to maintain the hot thermoplastic material flowing through the nozzle at the right temperature, more heat is given off by the tubular heating body inwards to the tubular inner part than outwards, with the result that the temperature of the inner peripheral part of the body becomes lower than that of the outer peripheral part, as a result of which the inner peripheral part narrows, so that the tubular body is clamped firmly around the tubular inner part.

Besides in such a body a bimetal-effect occurs which, when the heating element is disposed off-centre i.e. closer to the one cylindrical surface of the body than to the other cylindrical surface and depending on the difference in the coefficients of expansion of the metals from which the heating element and the body are made up respectively, results in a firm grip of the body round the tubular inner part.

In this case the outer peripheral face of the tubular body can be made tapering and, after it is slid to a particular point over the tubular inner part, a clamping sleeve having a tapering inner peripheral face can be slid over said body. In this way the tubular body is clamped around the tubular inner part by the wedging effect of the abovementioned peripheral faces, so that the tubular body can fit around the cylindrical outer peripheral face of the tubular inner part with a looser fit than a sliding fit. In this case the outer peripheral face of the heating body and the inner peripheral face of the clamping sleeve can advantageously be provided with a surface roughness approximately in the form of a helical screw thread with large pitch, so that the clamping force is increased by rotating the clamping sleeve.

It will be clear that it is also possible to form the heating body in such a way that it fits in a force fit around the cylindrical outer peripheral face of

the inner part and, only after such a temperature difference between the inner and outer peripheral part is produced that the temperature at the former part is higher than that at the latter part, so that the tubular body widens, to slide said body up to a certain point over the tubular inner part and subsequently to eliminate the above-mentioned temperature difference again, as a result of which the tubular body narrows and grips round the tubular inner part.

In particular, if several tubular bodies or heating bodies situated at a distance from each other are fitted round the tubular inner part, one or more generally tubular filling bodies are advantageously slid over the tubular inner part before and/or after a heating body is slid up to a certain point over the tubular inner part.

The invention is explained in further detail with reference to the drawing, in which:

Figure 1 shows an injection nozzle obtained by the process according to the invention, in axial cross-section;

Figure 2 shows a second embodiment of an injection nozzle obtained by the process according to the invention, in axial cross-section; and

Figure 3 shows a heating body of the injection nozzle according to Figure 2, in top view.

As shown in Figure 1, the injection nozzle comprises three heating bodies 1, 2 and 3, each comprising a tubular solid metal body in which a coiled heating element 4, 5, 6 is embedded, said heating elements having outwardly projecting connecting parts 4', 5', 6' for connection of the heating elements to an electric power source (not shown). Each of the heating bodies 1, 2, 3 is formed in advance by placing a coiled heating element 4, 5, 6 in a preheated annular mould cavity and pouring liquid metal into it, either by atmospheric casting or by injection moulding, and then allowing said metal to set, following which the body thus formed is removed from the mould cavity. The inner periphery 1', 2', 3' of the heating body is then tapered-drilled.

The heating body 1, 2, 3 thus obtained is then slid over a tubular part, in which the outer peripheral faces 7, 8, 9 of the tubular part are made tapering, so that through the wedging effect of the inner peripheral faces 1', 2', 3' with the corresponding tapering outer peripheral face 7, 8, 9 of the tubular part the bodies 1, 2 and 3 come to lie tightly around the parts 7, 8, 9 respectively.

The top end of the part 7 of the tubular inner part can be screwed tightly into a connecting piece 10 of the injection mould (not shown). The bottom end of the part 9 of the tubular inner part is provided with a jet passage 11.

During the production of the injection nozzle shown in Figures 2 and 3 the heating bodies 12

and 13 are first produced by pouring molten metal into a preheated mould cavity in the manner described above. However, in this case the heating elements 14, 15 extend in curved loops running zigzag through the body 12, 13, so that said loops, viewed in the axial direction, leave between them an axially extending part of the metal body, which part serves to form a continuous axial gap 12', 13', which gap can be formed by sawing it out or through the mould cavity already having a facility for this.

The outer peripheral face of the bodies 12, 13 is also tapered, either in the mould cavity or by a finishing operation.

The bodies 12 and 13 thus formed are then slid over a tubular inner part 16 up to a certain point. Then the clamping sleeves 17 and 18 are slid over the bodies 12 and 13 respectively, the inner peripheral faces of said sleeves being tapered, so that the wedging effect between said inner surfaces with the tapering outer surfaces of the bodies 12, 13 causes the tubular bodies 12, 13 to be clamped firmly around the tubular part 16. The clamping sleeves are not, however, necessary. The bodies 12, 13 can also have a purely cylindrical outer peripheral face and be slid in a sliding fit up to a certain point over the inner part, since when the nozzle is in operation these bodies are clamped firmly around the inner part through the temperature differences between the inner and outer peripheral parts described above.

Axially split sleeves 19, 20 of a readily conducting metal, for example copper, can, if necessary, also be fitted between the bodies 12, 13 and the tubular centre part 16. The filling bodies 21, 22 and 23 provided with an axially running gap can also be slid over the tubular inner part 16, which bodies can be made of, for example, aluminium.

The heating elements 14, 15 can be connected by means of the connecting pieces 24 to an electric power source, said heating elements being interconnected by wiring extending through the axially running gaps in the filling bodies 21, 22, 23 and the heating elements 12, 13.

The top end of the injection nozzle thus formed can be screwed into a connecting piece 25 of an injection mould, while a jet passage 26 is provided at the bottom end of the tubular inner part 16.

Claims

1. Process for the production of an injection nozzle for use in a device for moulding an object of a thermoplastic material in an injection mould, which nozzle comprises an essentially tubular inner part forming a feed channel for the thermoplastic material, and at least one essentially wire-type heating element which is

situated at a distance from the tubular inner part and which is fitted extending over a certain length of the inner part and running several times essentially round the inner part, and which is embedded entirely inside a solid metal body lying in a close-fitting manner around the inner part, which body is obtained by placing the heating element and said metal in a molten state in a mould, so that the heating element is completely enclosed by the molten metal, and subsequently allowing the metal to set, following which the body thus formed is removed from the mould, characterized in that one or more separate, essentially tubular metal bodies with a heating element embedded therein are formed in the manner mentioned above, and this tubular body or these tubular bodies thus obtained is or are then slid over the tubular inner part up to a certain point.

2. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that at least a part of the inner peripheral face of a tubular body and the outer peripheral face of at least a part of the tubular inner part are made so that they run tapered to the same degree, and said tubular body is slid over the tubular inner part in such a way that the taper of the first-mentioned peripheral face is directed identically to that of the other peripheral face, so that towards the end of the sliding movement these faces interact as wedges for fixing the tubular body at a particular point around the inner part.

3. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that a fully open axially running slit is formed in the wall of the tubular body, while the wire-type heating element extends in curved loops running zigzag through the body and extending to the slit.

4. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that the outer peripheral face of the tubular body is made tapering and, after it is slid to a particular point over the tubular inner part, a clamping sleeve having a tapering inner peripheral face is slid over said body, so that the tubular body is clamped firmly around the tubular inner part by the wedging effect of the above-mentioned peripheral faces.

5. Process according to Claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the tubular body is designed in such a way that it fits around the cylindrical outer peripheral face of the tubular inner part with a sliding fit.

6. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in

that the tubular body is designed in such a way that it fits in a force fit around the cylindrical outer peripheral face of the tubular inner part and such a temperature difference is produced between the inner and outer peripheral part that the temperature at the former part is higher than that at the latter part and after the tubular body is slid to a particular point over the tubular inner part the temperature difference is eliminated.

7. Process according to Claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the outer peripheral face of the tubular body and the inner peripheral face of the clamping sleeve are provided with a surface roughness approximately in the form of a helical screw thread with large pitch.

8. Process according to Claims 1 - 7, characterized in that one or more generally tubular filling bodies are advantageously slid over the tubular inner part before and/or after a tubular body is slid up to a certain point over the tubular inner part.

fig - 1

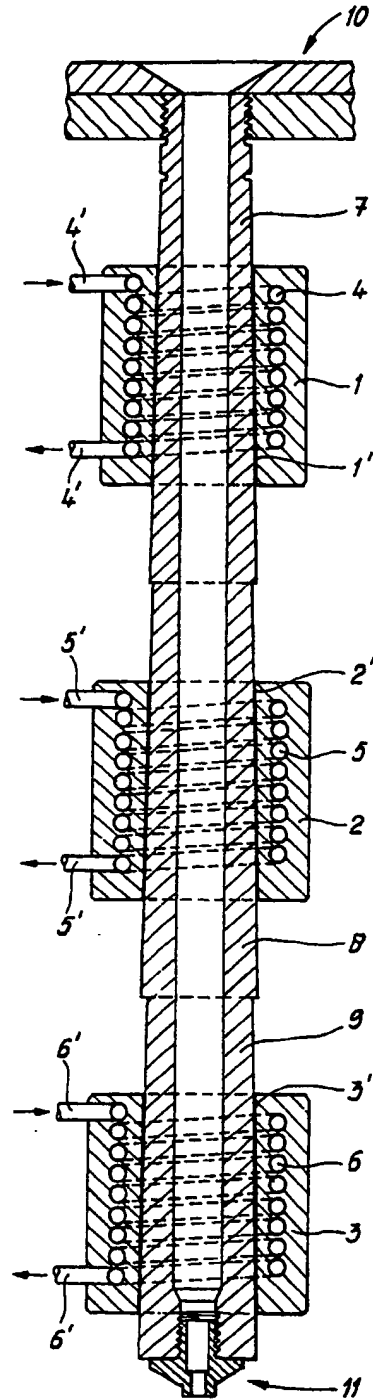


fig - 2

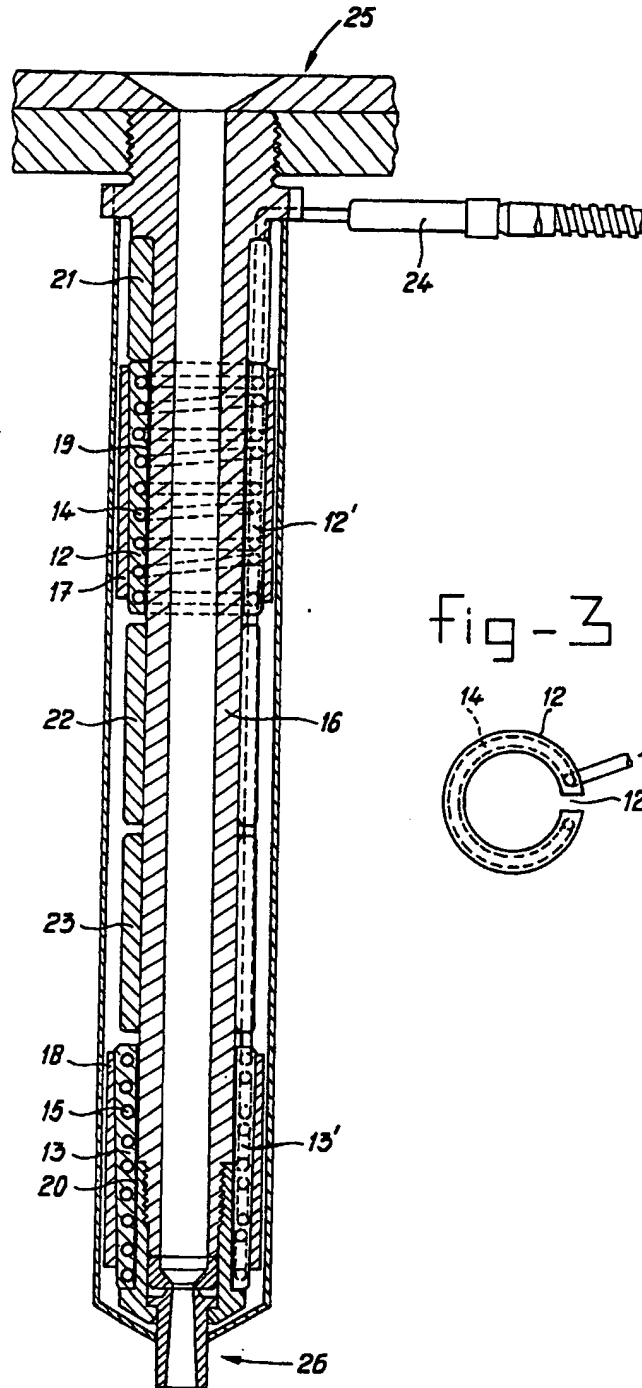
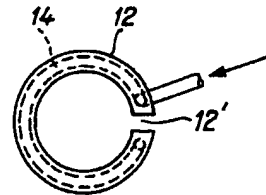


fig - 3





European
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 20 0397

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	PLASTVERARBEITER. vol. 38, no. 12, December 1987, SPEYER/RHEIN DE pages 106 - 116; R. LÖHL: "STANDARDISIERTES SCHMELZELEITSYSTEM FÜR GROSSWERKZEUGE" * page 110, middle column, line 5 - right-hand column, line 7; figures 2, 4 *	1,3,5	B 29 C 45/20 B 29 C 45/72
A	US-A-4 268 241 (HUSKY) * figures *	1,2,4	
A,D	EP-A-0 093 231 (GELLERT) * abstract *	1	
A	US-A-4 558 210 (WATLOW) * column 2, lines 25 - 65; figures *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B 29 C B 23 P
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		13 May 91	RIS M.
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